



News for Immediate Release

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Contacts:

- [Roger Canfield](#), DWR PIO, (916) 653-2784
- [Pete Weisser](#), DWR PIO, (916) 653-3350

DWR Security Update, March 2003

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is significantly more secure and vigilant than it was prior to September 11, 2001. DWR operates the California State Water Project (SWP), one of the largest water and power systems in the nation, and administers many water resource-related programs, including dam safety, flood management, and water resource planning.

"With the recent elevation of the federal threat level to Orange and the war in Iraq, DWR has taken action to increase security. DWR regulates access and closely monitors activities at SWP facilities, DWR offices and work stations," said Sonny Fong, DWR's emergency preparedness manager. In addition to upgrades in facility security, special training has been given to DWR's key managers, first responders, and security staff.

Managers of SWP facilities also are coordinating their plans and actions with first response agencies including California Homeland Security office, FBI, Governor's Office of Emergency Services, local police and fire, California Highway Patrol, California Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Game, and other agencies.

The result is greater security for DWR people, SWP infrastructure, and DWR offices and work places.

While DWR does not discuss the details of its security program, the Department coordinates very closely on security issues and emergency preparedness with federal and State public safety and law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, utilities, regional and municipal water entities, and others. DWR is a catalyst at the State level on security planning, coordination, and communication among agencies that share a concern to protect

lives and infrastructure, especially water agencies.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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